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Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 01530 030103Z

67
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /056 W
---------- 096870
R 030048Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5758

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR KS CH
SUBJECT: REACTION TO NIXON'S CHINA VISIT

1. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE LOCAL INTEREST IN EX-PRESIDENT NIXON'S CHINA VISIT. HOWEVER, FOR MOST PART INTEREST WAS EXPRESSED IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION.

2. DURING PAST FEW WEEKS EMBOFFS WERE FREQUENTLY QUESTIONED AS TO BACKGROUND AND MEANING OF VISIT. QUESTIONS INDICATE GENERAL CONFUSION AND BEWILDERMENT AS TO PURPOSE OF TRIP AND IMPLICATIONS, IF ANY, FOR ROK. PRESIDENT PARK RAISED MATTER DURING CALL BY FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR BERGER, AND NDP LEADER KIM YONG-SAM QUESTIONED AMBASSADOR ON SAME SUBJECT.

3. PRESS HAS REPORTED TRIP EXTENSIVELY BASING STORIES ON WIRE SERVICES. HOWEVER, ASIDE FROM REPRINTS OF US EDITORIALS ONLY COMMENTS HAVE BEEN FROM LEADING TONGA ILBO. TONGA INTERPRETS CHINESE HONORS FOR NIXON AS SIGNAL TO U.S. THAT THEY WANT TO CONTINUE TOWARD NORMAL RELATIONS, A PROCESS STARTED BY NIXON. ALSO, TONGA SEES VISIT AS WAY FOR MAO TO ATTACK PRO-SOVIET INTERNAL FACTIONS AND TO ENSURE CONTINUING SINO-U.S. DETENTE FOLLOWING HIS DEATH.

4. COMMENT: LACK OF COMMON EDITORIAL LINE IS AFFIRMATION OF PRIVATELY EXPRESSED ROKG BEWILDERMENT AS TO SIGNIFICANCE OF VISIT.
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SNEIDER

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NNN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 03 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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